(c) what steps are being taken or have been taken to protect the interests of Indian producers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the Rules of Anti-dumping, initiation of Anti-dumping investigation is undertaken only when the domestic industry files a Petition to the Designated Authority, with prima facie evidence, of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury to the domestic industry. In this case ,the domestic industry has not filed any Petition before the Designated Authority in the Anti-dumping Directorate for initiation of investigation on dumping of Fibre Glass Insulation and, therefore, no investigation has been initiated as on date.

Disposal of Tobacco Stock through STC

293. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to help tobacco dealers in disposing their huge stocks lying unsold by involving State Trading Corporation in export stocks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the current EXIM Policy exports of tobacco are free and are undertaken by exporters in both public and private sectors. All attempts are being made to help liquidate the stocks with the State Trading Corporation who has already floated a global tender in this regard. As the bulk of tobacco exports are against rupee payment by Russia, the Government of India have asked the Russian Authorities to allocate sufficient rupee funds to the Russian cigarette factories on credit terms to enable them to purchase Indian tobacco. An Indian delegation would visit Russia shortly to pursue the matter and to explore opportunities for greater cooperation between the tobacco industries of the two countries.

Some of the steps taken to enhance export of tobacco, inter-alia, include:

(i) Re-orienting production and developmental strategies to the changing international needs i.e., encouraging production of low tar, low nicotine and light soil tobaccos and discouraging production in undesireable soils.

(ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing production cost so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.

(iii) Monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues.

(iv) Aligning grading at farmers level in line with International grading standards.

(v) Allowing exports of tobacco to Russia through "Debt Repayment Route".

(vi) Sponsoring Delegations abroad and participation in International Trade Fairs.

(vii) Inviting Delegations, from Foreign Tobacco Monopolies to visit India to understand quality and cost competitiveness of Indian tobacco and arranging meetings with Indian Tobacco Exporters.

(viii) Undertaking market promotion for Indian tobacco through advertisements in international magazines and through distribution of product brochures.

Export of Wheat to Russia

294. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered to export wheat to Russia in the wake of surplus production in the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the details of export, including quality, price, quantity and terms and conditions of export; and

(c) what impact it will have on our domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The possibility of exporting wheat to the Russian Federation was taken up with the Russian authorities who, however, indicated that presently the Russian side has no requirement of import of food grade wheat.

(c) Does not arise.